ESV

DANIEL

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To God's Honor and Praise

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to his people—we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

Soli Deo Gloria!—To God alone be the glory!
The Translation Oversight Committee

Aramiac section has a chiastic structure

↓ Chap. 2 vision of kingdoms
Chap. 3 worship Nebuchadnezzar
Chap. 4 Nebuchadnezzar judged

↑ Chap. 7 Vision of Kingdoms
Chap. 6 Worship Darius
Chap. 5 Babylon judged

This structure is rarely seen in Scripture.

- Hope in the midst of turbulent times would be a fitting title for the Book of Daniel
- Two questions faced exiled Jews:
  - is Israel's God truly God as compared to the Babylonian ones? The kingdom theology answers this.
  - will God restore His people? The covenant theme answers this.
- Is my God truly God and will He redeem me? Central questions for every person
- Daniel is a book most of us know only in part. The narrative half (Chap. 1-6) is usually our focus, but even that is often taught without a Christ-centered focus (moralism). The apocalyptic half (Chapters 7-12) is usually left For commentators.
- Daniel probably written in 530 BC and the events therein are 605-537 BC
- Daniel had meaning for the exiles and for us
- Daniel is unique in being written in two languages - Hebrew intro, Aramaic body, and Hebrew closing

DANIEL

The message of Daniel is God is in control

Daniel Taken to Babylon

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. 3 Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, 4 youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. 5 The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. 6 Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. 7 And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

Why do we still allow the others' identities to be robbed from them?

Daniel's Faithfulness

8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he

How did Nebuchadnezzar attempt to change identities? Through education

God in charge of the nation's fall

God sends Israel to the capital of idolatry as a judgment for their idolatry

Daniel's Babylonian name never stuck

Predicted in Habakkuk 1:5

All these Hebrew names mentioned God. They were given Babylonian names based on false gods.

Daniel 1:1 - Daniel uses the Babylonian rendering of the years of kings. First year of ascension, then year one, year two, etc. Jeremiah used Palestinian rendering. Year one is year of ascension, etc.

The four principle characters are from the tribe of Judah - where Jesus will come from

The tale of two kingdoms - two godless kings
- Jehoiakim, son of Josiah (II Kings 23).
  Ungodly king with a godly father.
  Put on the throne by Pharoah Neco.
  There was a battle between two superpowers - Egypt and Babylon. Israel in the middle. The Battle of Carchemish (605 BC) marked end of Egyptian dominance and start of Babylon's seige of Jerusalem.
- Nebuchadnezzar, a pagan king.
  God used a godless nation to spank His people. Jeremiah 5. An ancient nation - from Tower of Babel.

The question of whether God is really God isn't answered by our circumstances. He can turn trials into testimonies.

- Daniel means "God is my judge"
- Hananiah means "God has shown grace"
- Mishael means "Who is what God is?"
- Azariah means "God has helped"

asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. 9 And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight
of the chief of the eunuchs, 10 and the chief of the eunuchs said
to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food
and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse
condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you
would endanger my head with the king." 11 Then Daniel said to
the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over
Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 "Test your servants
for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.
13 Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths
who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your
servants according to what you see." 14 So he listened to them
in this matter, and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of ten
days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter
in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. 16 So the
steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink,
and gave them vegetables.

17 As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill
in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in
all visions and dreams. 18 At the end of the time, when the king
had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of
the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And
the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was
found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore
they stood before the king. 20 And in every matter of wisdom
and understanding about which the king inquired of them,
he found them ten times better than all the magicians and
enchanters that were in all his kingdom. 21 And Daniel was
there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Regardless of where you find yourself, identify yourself with God's covenant People like Daniel and his friends did

Myths about Daniel
- That he was a small boy when taken captive
- That he gained his knowledge and wisdom from the Babylonians
- that his experience was ideal (for instance, send kids to godless schools for them to be a light)
-

Realities about Daniel
- he was between 15 and 20
- he and his friends gained their knowledge from the covenant community in Israel
- they had the demeanor and personal presence to stand before the king long before they learned their first Babylonian word

"God is the one who makes us knowledgable, skillful and wise" - Voddie Baucham

The Israeli culture was superior to Babylon's because it was ordered by God

You don't need the Babylonians, they need you

- Daniel and his friends died as slaves, not in a rebuilt Jerusalem. But their God was still God.
- God has me in Babylon, but He didn't create me for Babylon. I am part of the kingdom that will never die.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

2 In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar,
Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and
his sleep left him. [2] Then the king commanded that the magi-
cians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be sum-
moned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood
before the king. [3] And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and
my spirit is troubled to know the dream." [4] Then the Chaldeans
said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your ser-
vants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." [5] The
king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from
me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and
its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your
houses shall be laid in ruins. [6] But if you show the dream and its
interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and
great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpreta-
tion." [7] They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell
his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation."
[8] The king answered and said, "I know with certainty that you
are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me
is firm— [9] if you do not make the dream known to me, there
is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying
and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore
tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its
interpretation." [10] The Chaldeans answered the king and said,
"There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand,
for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any
magician or enchanter or Chaldean. [11] The thing that the king
asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the
gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

- In Daniel 2, God unfolds history before it happens in the hearing of Nebuchadnezzar. This points a pagan king and exiled Israel to the coming of the King of Kings.

v. 17-30 is the thesis statement of the Book of Daniel. Why we have hope. Narrative is not normative. But these verses give us a theological reason for our hope.

God of Heaven is a name used for God that comes out of the exile. This terminology is used in East Asian cultures (China, etc.)

In chapter 2, we don't get the prayer of Daniel but the praise of Daniel

Four intertwined reasons for our hope from Daniel's praise and testimony

1. All wisdom comes from God
2. God is sovreign in the affairs of men
3. We cannot know God's plans apart from special revelation. Book of nature insufficient for salvation.
4. God's revelation to man is an act of mercy

- Daniel 1-6 is a battle between human wisdom and God's wisdom (compare James) This doesn't mean men who don't know God know nothing. That is common grace.

12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and
commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed.
13 So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be
killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill
them. 14 Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion
to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out
to kill the wise men of Babylon. 15 He declared to Arioch, the
king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then
Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. 16 And Daniel went
in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might
show the interpretation to the king.

God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter
known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,
18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concern-
ing this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not
be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then
the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then
Daniel blessed the God of heaven. 20 Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.
21 He changes times and seasons;
he removes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;
22 he reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with him.

Sounds like the Apostle John God is light

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream is not conditional. Not for him to have choices, but for him to know what will happen
- In chapter 3, Nebuchadnezzar rebels against the dream. That statue is all of gold. Rebellion against God's sovreignty.
- Nebuchadnezzar could not prevent the march of history and the fall of his kingdom. Daniel could not prevent his people's captivity.
- Sovreignty is about authority. God is not in competition. Providence is how God exercises His sovreignty.
- Daniel has no future beyond himself, but he has the story of hope
- "Now that we have God's entire Word, we have leatherbound Bibles instead of three-ring binders" - Voddie Bauchom
- God could do everything in the Bible without it being recorded, but in His mercy, He tells us
- God was merciful to the Chaldeans by revealing this dream
- This is a showdown moment when Daniel is exalted
- Chapter 2 is a foreshadowing of the prophetic second half of Daniel
- When we are looking at prophetic literature, let the text give the interpertation. No need to go beyond what is given.

23 To you, O God of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise,
for you have given me wisdom and might,
and have now made known to me what we asked
of you,
for you have made known to us the king's
matter."

24 Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation."

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation." 26 The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" 27 Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: 29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. 30 But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

: When the king was in crisis, he didn't even think about Daniel and his friends

HISTORICAL VIEWS OF DANIEL 2

Jewish authors	Josephus understood the fourth kingdom as Rome
Church fathers	Apostolic fathers didn't write about this, but later church fathers saw as Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. Stone as second advent
Medieval and Reformation eras	Same view as early church fathers, with the stone as Christ's first advent
Modern period	Division between historicists, preterists (think all is fulfilled), critical liberal scholars, and dispensationalists

Daniel Interprets the Dream

31 "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image,
mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its
appearance was frightening. 32 The head of this image was of
fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs
of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of
clay. 34 As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand,
and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke
them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver,
and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became
like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind
carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found.
But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain
and filled the whole earth.

Daniel and His friends or Daniel and God? Or trinity?

36 "This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its inter-
pretation. 37 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of
heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and
the glory, 38 and into whose hand he has given, wherever they
dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds
of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the
head of gold. 39 Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after
you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over
all the earth. 40 And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as
iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And
like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. 41 And
as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of
iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of
iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay.
42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so
the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 As you

Traditional interpertation:
Gold - Babylonian Empire
Silver - Persian Empire
Bronze - Alexander the Great's Greek Empire
Iron - Roman Empire

- Similarities between Daniel and Old Testament Joseph in interperting dreams
- In chapter 2, only the head of gold is identified as the Neo-Babylonian Empire (you are the head of gold)
- The second and third kingdoms are mentioned only briefly
- The fourth kingdom is distinguished from the others but again not identified
- Daniel never says 10 toes, though it would be implied perhaps
- The last kingdom is more diverse (intermarriage)
- Our assumption is four successive kingdoms that will immediately replace each other. But verse 44 speaks of these kingdoms existing at the same time
- In Daniel 7 and 8, Daniel relies on the angel for interpertation, but not here
- The point is the sovreignty of God over the nations
- Four things about kingdom of God:
  - Will never be destroyed
  - It will not be taken over
  - It brings to an end the other kingdoms
  - It stands forever
- There are no righteous kingdoms in this world apart from the kingdom of God

saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, 45 just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

not conditional and settled interpertation

Daniel Is Promoted

Daniel was given the symbols of the head of gold that will be crushed by the rock

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." 48 Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image

3 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects,

- The stone is Christ Himself

Why the dream was given to Nebuchadnezzar
- To humble Nebychadnezzar (frailty of his own mind in forgetting, that his kingdom won't last forever, inferiority of his seers)
- To save and preserve Daniel and his friends. Daniel goes from a slave to a student to a seer to a supervisor.
- To encourage Israel. Your failure is not final. And your oppressor is not sovreign. Your God has not forsaken you when He is chastening you. The doctrine of eternal security.
- To exalt God

- Nebuchadnezzar echoes and summarizes Daniel's praise. He is awed and humbled, but not saved. Parable of the soils in Matthew 13 - initially, Nebuchadnezzar is a rocky road hearer.

Conflicts of Conscience

Ways to respond to a pagan culture
- Oppose the culture continually (we become angry)
- assimilate (we compromise)
- go with the culture as far as you can, and then draw a line where it rebels against God

and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 3 Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 4 And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." 7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

The Fiery Furnace

8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. 9 They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. 11 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and

Look at the ways Daniel and his friends actually went along with the Babylonian culture. They weren't all about resistence
- educated for three years in Babylonian literature
- they learned the language (Akkadian)
- they accepted careers in government
- they accepted their name changes

Daniel's friends trusted God's unknown Providence

The fourth Man in the fire is Christ. The pre-incarnate Christ, or Angel of the Lord in Old Testament terms

Lessons:
- Persecution should be expected
- most people will bow before the state and its laws. There were 10,000 Jews minimally, but only Daniel's friends took a stand
- the fire that purifies us is the fire that frees us

Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they
do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you
have set up."

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought
these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and
said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image
that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the
sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every
kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have
made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall
immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is
the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to
the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you
in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to
deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver
us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you,
O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden
image that you have set up."

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the
expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times
more than it was usually heated. 20 And he ordered some of
the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.
21 Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics,
their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown
into the burning fiery furnace. 22 Because the king's order was

"It's one thing to be put into a furnace of fire. It's quite another to be put into the lake of fire"
-Warren Wiersbe

"You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour and then is extinguished, but you know nothing of the fire of the coming judgment and eternal punishment"
-St. Polycarp

Nebuchadnezzar had a toxic temper. Today we would say he needed anger management.

urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed
those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell
bound into the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up
in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three
men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king,
"True, O king." 25 He answered and said, "But I see four men
unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not
hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the
burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come
here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from
the fire. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and
the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire
had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair
of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed,
and no smell of fire had come upon them. 28 Nebuchadnezzar
answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his ser-
vants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command,
and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any
god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any
people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the
God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb
from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other
god who is able to rescue in this way." 30 Then the king pro-
moted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province
of Babylon.

In the Hebrew Bible, these opening verses are at the end of Chapter 3

Nebuchadnezzar Praises God addressed to everyone

4 King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to
you! [2] It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders
that the Most High God has done for me.

[3] How great are his signs,
how mighty his wonders!
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and his dominion endures from generation to
generation.

Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream

[4] I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering
in my palace. [5] I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed
the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. [6] So I made a
decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before
me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of
the dream. [7] Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans,
and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they
could not make known to me its interpretation. [8] At last Daniel
came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the
name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—
and I told him the dream, saying, [9] "O Belteshazzar, chief of the
magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is
in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the
visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation. [10] The
visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a
tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. [11] The tree
grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it

- Chapter 4 is the most dramatic conversion story in history except for the Apostle Paul

- v. 3 - Nebuchadnezzar's hymn. The first use of "Most High God" in Scripture is with Melchizedek in Genesis

- Nebuchadnezzar's hymn is addressed to the nations, which is God's plan for worship.

- "When a man has defamed the glory of the Most High God before others and then encounters that God in a transforming way, he cannot help but make it known to his former audiences that he was wrong about God"
  - Voddie Baucham

- One of the marks of true conversion is brokeness over past sins and a desire to set it right

- This hymn parallels David in Psalm 145:13. How did Nebuchadnezzar know the Psalms of David? Probably Daniel and his friends

- God reveals His glory through a nation that had no peer. Nebuchadnezzar isn't just addressing one people. This isn't arrogance but a statement of fact.
- God often encouters the most powerful man in the world, such as the Pharoah of Exodus, Herod and Pilate in Jesus' time, and Caesar in Paul's day

was visible to the end of the whole earth. [12] Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it.

[13] "I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. [14] He proclaimed aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. [15] But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. [16] Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. [17] The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.' [18] This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

Daniel Interprets the Second Dream

[19] Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, "Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you." Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! [20] The tree you saw, which grew and became strong,

The minute you make your story the heart of the matter, you set up yourself and those around you for disappointment

- God reveals His glory through a weak nation in the midst of a strong one. A pattern we see. In our day, the church is the weaker kingdom that proclaims His Gospel (I. Cor. 1:20-31)
- God reveals His glory personally and supernaturally

Implications
- How ironic is it that we think we can reach people through their intellect or emotions, but God reaches Nebuchadnezzar by taking his sanity
- The altar call, came from Charles Finney in the Second Great Awakening. But its not always God's method
- Salvation is not the result of man having his will manipulated. Salvation is the result of man have his soul made alive to God
- The point wasn't for Nebuchadnezzar to change the circumstances, God's people stayed in captivity and Nebuchadnezzar quickly passed off the scene
- Trying to understand what God is doing in your suffering is like trying to find the layout of a room through a keyhole
- When suffering comes, remember that you were suffering before at a lower level and just didn't notice
- We pursue fame because were selfish, proud and arrogant. When a famous person comes to faith in Jesus, you stop hearing about them

so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end
of the whole earth, [21] whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit
abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of
the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the
heavens lived— [22] it is you, O king, who have grown and become
strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and
your dominion to the ends of the earth. [23] And because the king
saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and say-
ing, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of
its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in
the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew
of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field,
till seven periods of time pass over him,' [24] this is the interpre-
tation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come
upon my lord the king, [25] that you shall be driven from among
men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You
shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with
the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over
you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of
men and gives it to whom he will. [26] And as it was commanded
to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall
be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven
rules. [27] Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you:
break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniq-
uities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may per-
haps be a lengthening of your prosperity."

Directly due to Nebuchadnezzar's sin

Sin and mental illness related

Something God will do to him, not because of a natural defect in Nebuchadnezzar's brain

Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation

[28] All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. [29] At the end of
twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace

Nebuchadnezzar mistook God's kindness for weakness

- Nebuchadnezzar today would have been diagnosed with schizophrenia. Mental illness is mentioned in Scripture.
  - Job had depression
  - Paul had PTSD
  - David had every mental state imaginable expressed in Psalms
  - Saul had anxiety attacks
- Possibilities of how Christians can approach mental illness
  - Leave it alone
  - Claim that we understand everything
  - Understand we have the physical and spiritual abiding together (best approach)
- Pastors are responsible to walk with people with real issues
- Why is this chapter difficult?
  - Our psychology-focused culture (most people take only one class)
  - The acceptance of psychiatry into the medical community
  - Over-diagnosis (bipolar, depression, anxiety, PTSD, ADHD, chemical imbalance, etc)
  - We're starting to believe mental illness is the new norm
  - The church has been marginalized in this area (belief that God cannot handle mental illness)
- Psychology isn't the same as natural sciences such as chemistry. No verifiable tests. That's why we use the term syndrome. The history of psychology is a movement from one worldview to the next as each is shown not to work.

Because Nebuchadnezzar's pride was inordinately large his humiliation was inordinately significant

of Babylon, [30] and the king answered and said, "Is not this great
Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal res-
idence and for the glory of my majesty?" [31] While the words
were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven,
"O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom
has departed from you, [32] and you shall be driven from among
men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field.
And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven peri-
ods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most
High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."
[33] Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar.
He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and
his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as
long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

Opposite of evolution

This took years Don't miss that fact

When Nebuchadnezzar is in his right mind, he understands who God is

Nebuchadnezzar Restored

[34] At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes
to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the
Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

The Crux of the Matter

This hymn of praise parallels the Lord's Prayer

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to
generation;
[35] all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as
nothing,
and he does according to his will among the
host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, "What have you done?"

Digging deep into doctrine isn't a prerequisite for salvation

Daniel was the only one with an accurate diagnosis and a means for Nebuchadnezzar to be cured and he would be rejected by modern psychology

Problems with psychology
- Quasi-scientific at best
- Lack of accountability
- An absence of results (they can't cure only treat)
- Dangerous side effects (listen to drug commercials)
- Wrong worldview (materialistic with man as a machine. No spiritual side)
- Theological inconsistencies
- Psychology makes it more difficult for the Gospel

• You can't say every psychological disorder is due to a particular sin but you can't say mental illness is never due to sin
• Just because someone is a Christian and a psychologist doesn't mean they understand how to apply Biblical theological reality to handle issues
• Don't bow to a worldview that negates your God
• "I'm in my right mind when I understand who God is" - Voddie Baucham

Takeaways:
- We're both physical and spiritual
- We will have bad days
- Your sin has physical and emotional consequences
- There is real evil in the world
- There is no evidence that psychedelic drugs cure mental illness
- Psychedelic drugs mask symptoms with severe side effects
- Most mental illness has either physical or spiritual cause

It's not about how articulate you are. God saves sinners.

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory
of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me.
My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established
in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.
37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King
of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and
those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

The Handwriting on the Wall

5 King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his
lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.
2 Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the
vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father
had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the
king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink
from them. 3 Then they brought in the golden vessels that had
been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem,
and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank
from them. 4 They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and
silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

5 Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and
wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite
the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. 6 Then
the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his
limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. 7 The king
called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and
the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon,
"Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation,
shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around
his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." 8 Then all

- We think of conversion as a New Testament concept, but it's in the Old Testament too and not only among the Hebrews
- We don't see Nebuchadnezzar's life after his conversion, so that's why it's hard for us to see him as a convert
- Nebuchadnezzar's son didn't follow in his footsteps. Each generation chooses

Evidence of Nebuchadnezzar's Conversion:
- Pride to praise (praise is opposite of pride)
- there is repentence (Matt. 4:17) - opposite of the sin that marked his life
- there is restoration (salvation doesn't equal prosperity but it matches what Daniel said about his personal judgment)

The Means of Nebuchadnezzar's Conversion
- the sovreignty of God saved him
- he didn't turn because someone reached his intellect - his intellect was unreachable
- no one met Nebuchadnezzar where he was
- monergistic salvation - the belief God is responsible for any person's salvation

The Fruit of Nebuchadnezzar's Conversion
- all praise goes to God alone
- God's kindness and mercy
- Nebuchadnezzar is now a trophy of God's grace throughout the ages
- Nebuchadnezzar is an encouragement to all evangelists. God can reach the unreachable

the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. [9] Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

[10] The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, "O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. [11] There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, [12] because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation."

Daniel Interprets the Handwriting

[13] Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, "You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. [14] I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. [15] Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter. [16] But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with

Belshazzar was the last king of Ancient Babylon, grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. The Neo-Babylonian empire only lasted three generations. This story occurred in October 539 B.C. The Medes were from Jepath (Madai), while the Persians were Shemitic. The queen mother may be Nebuchadnezzar's widow.

There is a large silent period in Daniel's life. At this time he is an older man but had apparently been forgotten for decades.

It is quite possible Belshazzar was celebrating Halloween. Why do so many cultures celebrate in October or early November? Faded memories of Noah's flood perhaps? Note dates in Genesis 6-7.

Drunkeness is common at the fall of empires and families. Blasphemy is a major sin here. Unpardonable sin of rejecting God (Ten Commandments taking God in vain)

Three accusations against Belshazzar:
- Pride - refuse to humble yourself
- blasphemy
- defiance of God

purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. 18 O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. 19 And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled. 20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. 21 He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will. 22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, 23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

24 "Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. 25 And this is the writing that was inscribed:

"We go from Happy Hour to the perplexing hour to the fearful hour to the final hour" - Erwin Lutzer

Lessons
- When we reject God, we invite judgment
- No defense can save us when God says our number is up
- It's necessary for us to read the metaphorical writing on the wall in our time

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. [26] This is the interpretation
of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your king-
dom and brought it to an end; [27] TEKEL, you have been weighed
in the balances and found wanting; [28] PERES, your kingdom is
divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

[29] Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

[30] That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed.
[31] And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about
sixty-two years old.

change of empires but the name of Daniel remains

Daniel and the Lions' Den

6 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be
throughout the whole kingdom; [2] and over them three high
officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should
give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. [3] Then this
Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials
and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king
planned to set him over the whole kingdom. [4] Then the high
officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint
against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find
no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful,
and no error or fault was found in him. [5] Then these men said,
"We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel
unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

Root word of president is preside. Office existed in ancient times.

[6] Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to
the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! [7] All the
high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the

Daniel 6 is one of the most famous story in Scripture. But it is important to not assume we know it. This is rife ground for works righteousness, which we need to avoid.

The picture is faithfulness that honors God.

Note he's called Daniel again with the Babylonians gone. They were never able to make him a true Babylonian.

Things to note:
- The faithfulness that honors God is a blessing to the kingdom of man (first four verses)
- Daniel is not serving in formal ministry or in the Promised Land, but his faithfulness pleases God
- Daniel had learned to live as a pilgrim Jeremiah 29 letter to the exiles was written to Daniel and others
- Daniel wasn't Judaizing the Medes and Persians (not taking over the culture), nor was he feeding the poor or even improving the plight of the exiles. He was merely helping Darius mitigate his losses.
- Find yourself faithful wherever the Lord has you
- Because man is made in God's image, you do good to God when you do good to man

Medes and Persians inferior to Nebuchadnezzar because their leaders couldn't change their minds

counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. [8] Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." [9] Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

[10] When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. [11] Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. [12] Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." [13] Then they answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

not one of the three leaders. Why they hate him →

[14] Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. [15] Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

- Faithfulness is the result of true religion
- Daniel was known for his obedience to the law of God
- Daniel will submit to authority unless it forbids what God commands or commands what God forbids
- Daniel depended upon God in prayer. Practice of prayer. Muhammad picked up on this thrice daily prayer in Islam, but that's a stolen practice and reveals ignorance of what Daniel was doing. Daniel was following Solomon's direction at dedication of the Temple
- We know what Daniel's prayer is because he's facing Jerusalem.
- For us today, we aren't focused on a holy land
- Faithfulness that honors God often results in persecution
- Man's hatred of God isn't rational. Daniel is benefiting the kingdom yet he is persecuted
- In Daniel 3, it is "will you worship a false god?". In Daniel 6, it is "will you not worship the true God?"
- II Timothy 3.12
- Ironically, many of the martyrs of the early church died by the lions
- Daniel is not responsible for his persecution (not because he's not politically active or not Godly enough, etc.)

16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought
and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel,
"May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"
17 And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den,
and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the sig-
net of his lords, that nothing might be changed concern-
ing Daniel. 18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the
night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep
fled from him.

19 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste
to the den of lions. 20 As he came near to the den where Daniel
was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to
Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God,
whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from
the lions?" 21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live for-
ever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths,
and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless
before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."
23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that
Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out
of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because
he had trusted in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and
those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought
and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their
wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the
lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

to us → 25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and
to languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to
you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are
to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,

Darius had a conversion experience like Nebuchadnezzar did.

Darius and Cyrus were co-regents.

Nebuchadnezzar's command focused on what he would do to unbelievers (Daniel 3). Darius is more focused on God's sovreignty - what God will do.

for he is the living God,
enduring forever;
his kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion shall be to the end.
27 He delivers and rescues;
he works signs and wonders
in heaven and on earth,
he who has saved Daniel
from the power of the lions."

Darius understands end times

28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts

7 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. 2 Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. 4 The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. 5 And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' 6 After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying

common Babylonian term

turmoil is a sign of the Times of the Gentiles

- Beasts = kingdoms
- Beasts are represented as violent, because there is always a violent transition from kingdom to kingdom

Chapter 7 is the beginning of the prophetic portion. It serves as a bridge between the two types of literature. Chapter 7 is the end of chronological order. Between Chapters 4 and 5.

Previously Daniel was interperting other people's dreams. Now he has one. In Chapter 2, a dream of four kingdoms made Daniel famous. Now he is forgotten. Must have been a discouraging time for him.

v. 2 - the turbulent arc of history. Compare Revelation 13.

Similar to first version in the sense of four kingdoms, but different with zoomorphism

Hosea 13 has a lot of the same terms, speaking of God's judgment

"It can scarcely happen that any kingdom can perish without involving others in its ruin" - John Calvin

God's providence orders these things, with a definite end. God starts with what Daniel knows and moves to what he does not know.

and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

eternal vs. temporary kingdoms

The Ancient of Days Reigns

9 "As I looked,

thrones were placed,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames;
its wheels were burning fire.

righteousness vs. wicked kingdoms that will be judged

10 A stream of fire issued
and came out from before him;
a thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood
before him;
the court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

Inside all of these kingdoms are those who serve the Ancient of Days

myriad worshippers like Revelation

Revelation 20

11 "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was

Traditional view:
Lion - Babylon
Bear - Medeo-Persia
Leopard - Greece
Final beast - Rome

Some have applied this to nations existing at the end of history.
Lion - United Kingdom
Eagles wings - United States
Bear - Russia
Leopard - Germany or Asian powers

God is not competing with these entities. The kingdom of God is not a geopolitical entity. God is enthroned above it all.

The kingdoms of this world are accountable to God without being in a covenant relationship with God.

We don't know what animal the fourth beast is. Just not like the rest. Unprecedented.

Your attention in reading Daniel 7 should go to the Ancient of Days and Son of Man who we live for.

taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and
a time. already but not yet = church age?

The Son of Man Is Given Dominion

13 "I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven ← Second coming of Christ
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
14 And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

Daniel's Vision Interpreted

Daniel's reactions and interactions sound like John (Revelation)

15 "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and
the visions of my head alarmed me. 16 I approached one of those
who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this.
So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of
the things. 17 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall
arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall
receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever
and ever.'

19 "Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast,
which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying,

A beast can't destroy something that died and rose again. Why Jesus wins.

Daniel is the first of many to be disturbed by the violent consummation of history. And the first to want to know end time details (v. 19). Daniel doesn't go away from this vision shouting for joy. He's disturbed by the coming persecution.

It is wrong for us to take the freedoms we've enjoyed and reinterpert the Bible accordingly. Most Christians have lived under persecution.

Takeaways:
- All the kingdoms of this world are temporary, includings ours
- The kingdoms of this world will always war against the saints
- This persecution will ebb and flow until the end, when it intensifies
- God will deliver His people and give them an everlasting kingdom
- We acknowledge we are in the turbulent arc of history and the kingdoms are better for the presence of believers
- Do not get confused. Your service is a blessing to the beast, but it won't make a beast not a beast

with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured
and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet,
20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other
horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the
horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and
that seemed greater than its companions. 21 As I looked, this
horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until
the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the
saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints
possessed the kingdom.

23 "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast,

there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth,
which shall be different from all the kingdoms,
and it shall devour the whole earth,
and trample it down, and break it to pieces.
24 As for the ten horns,
out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise,
and another shall arise after them;
he shall be different from the former ones,
and shall put down three kings.
25 He shall speak words against the Most High,
and shall wear out the saints of the Most High,
and shall think to change the times and
the law;
and they shall be given into his hand
for a time, times, and half a time.
26 But the court shall sit in judgment,
and his dominion shall be taken away,
to be consumed and destroyed to the end.

Don't confuse your temporal kingdom and your eternal kingdom

Persecution does not mean the church is unfaithful. It means the beast is being a beast.

Beastly thinking is thinking that the earthly kingdoms are our only hope

"Christ died and rose again so our citizenship could be transformed. Live like you believe that is true" - Voddie Baucham

27 And the kingdom and the dominion
and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven
shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;
his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom,
and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'

28 "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."

Daniel's Vision of the Ram and the Goat

8 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. 2 And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal. 3 I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. 4 I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

5 As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. 6 He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. 7 I saw him come close to the ram, and he

Daniel 8 is written two years after Daniel 7. It seems to be primarily of historical performance, though possibly (but not certainly) With a last days fulfillment.

Susa later became a capital in the Persian Empire. The word means "lily" and is where we get the names Susan and Suzanne. Esther is set in this city.

This seems to describe the victory of Alexander the Great's empire over the Persian and by extension the advent of global western culture.

Our society today is essentially Greek.
- democracy
- philosophy (liberalism and conservatism)
- sports
- science
- legal system

Alexander the Great was one of the most important men of history. He paved the way for Jesus by spreading a common language (Greek) and common culture.

was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power. [8] Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.

[9] Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. [10] It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. [11] It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. [12] And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. [13] Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?" [14] And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

The Interpretation of the Vision

[15] When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. [16] And I heard a man's voice between

Every time there is a significant gap in Biblical history (i.e. between old and new testaments or slavery in Egypt), God always provides a general roadmap of what would happen.

The little horn here is Antiochus Epiphanes, one of the evilest leaders in history and many feel a foreshadowing of the Man of Lawlessness (II Thess. 2)

The temple was cleansed in 164 B.C., which is what Jews celebrate in Hannukah. Hannukah is actually a minor Jewish holiday but is emphasized by American Jews due to the celebration of Christmas at the same time. Jesus celebrated Hannukah in John 10.

v. 23, if seen as a foreshadowing of the end of history, would agree with II Thess. 2 and II Timothy 3 that wickedness and apostasy is a major sign of the end.

Seventh-Day Adventist eschatology is based on the 2,300 days, interperted as representing years, ending in 1844 AD. This is an example of

the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." [17] So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end."

[18] And when he had spoken to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up. [19] He said, "Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end. [20] As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. [21] And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. [22] As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power. [23] And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. [24] His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. [25] By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. [26] The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now."

[27] And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

the problem with historicism, believing that prophecy is a road map of history, and is one reason why historicism has been abandoned despite being the common view of early Protestants.

v. 27 - we are to go about the King's business even though we may not understand all the details of prophecy.

v. 25 - says "in their prosperity" in New King James. May reference a time of economic good times at the end of history if indeed this has an end time fulfillment. This could remind us that good economic times aren't always God's blessing, for it can be in such times that nations leave the Lord.

Daniel's Prayer for His People

9 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by
descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of
the Chaldeans— 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, per-
ceived in the books the number of years that, according to
the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass
before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, sev-
enty years.

3 Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by
prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and
ashes. 4 I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession,
saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps cov-
enant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his
commandments, 5 we have sinned and done wrong and acted
wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your command-
ments and rules. 6 We have not listened to your servants the
prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes,
and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. 7 To you,
O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at
this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far
away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because
of the treachery that they have committed against you. 8 To
us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes,
and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. 9 To
the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have
rebelled against him 10 and have not obeyed the voice of the
LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us
by his servants the prophets. 11 All Israel has transgressed your
law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the

Things to note:
- Daniel was reading Jeremiah. The writers of Scripture referenced each others' works (II Peter 3:15 a New Testament example). No private interpertations. We gain knowledge about what God is doing by reading Scripture.
- Note "we". Daniel includes himself in the prayer for forgiveness. Daniel, along with Samuel and the Josephs of the old and new testaments, are among the few people in Scripture of which nothing negative is said. Still, they had personal sins. A major problem today is Christians are focused on the sins of others and not personal sin.
- v. 12 - the judgment of Judah and Israel was an unprecedented judgment.
- God's restoration was an act of mercy but also for His name's sake. This is also why God doesn't cast us off - assurance of salvation.
- Here, Gabriel gives Daniel an interpertation of the coming Messiah. We have

curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. [12] He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. [13] As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth. [14] Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice. [15] And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

[16] "O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. [17] Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. [18] O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. [19] O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name."

reference to three angels by name in Scripture:
- Lucifer - Satan, the fallen foe
- Michael - Israel's angel
- Gabriel - seems focused on Christ's coming, see the Christmas story

- v. 23 - Daniel was greatly loved and we are greatly loved because of Christ (Ephesians 1:6)
- Gabriel is referenced as a man. Angels seem to always appear like human males.

Gabriel Brings an Answer

20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and
the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the
LORD my God for the holy hill of my God, 21 while I was speaking
in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the
first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacri-
fice. 22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying,
"O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and under-
standing. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word
went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly
loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

The Seventy Weeks

24 "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your
holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and
to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to
seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.
25 Know therefore and understand that from the going out of
the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an
anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for
sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat,
but in a troubled time. 26 And after the sixty-two weeks, an
anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the
people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and
the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end
there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. 27 And he shall make
a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the
week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the
wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate,
until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

- The 70 weeks prophecy is perhaps the most powerful in reaching Jewish people with Jesus' message. Messiah had to come before 70 A.D. when the temple was destroyed
- That the 70 weeks provides a timeline from Daniel's time to Christ's is indisputible by conservative scholars. The question is whether there is a seven year period yet future and whether the he of verse 27 ending the sacrifices is Jesus, Titus who destroyed the Temple, or some future Antichrist figure
- Either Way:
  - this prophecy dates Christ's first coming
  - other passages make clear there is a final Antichrist and a final tribulation
- The question is simply if we have the seven year detail dispensationalists assert or if it is more on broad terms as amillennialists claim
- What the 70 weeks clearly proves is more central and important than what we're unsure of

Daniel's Terrifying Vision of a Man

10 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. 7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. 9 Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.

10 And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of

Daniel 10 is the start of Daniel's final vision, the one that was sealed. We are wrong to assume that ALL of Daniel was sealed, just the final vision. Contrast with Revelation, which emphasizes the time is at hand.

This vision is given around the time the Israelites return to rebuild their temple. Daniel may be in his 90s (like John with Revelation).

Along with Job, this is one of the clearest glimpses of spiritual warfare in Scripture. God's delays are not necessarily His denials. We can assume spiritual warfare is sometimes at play when our answers are delayed.

Are spirit beings in control of different geographies? We can't be certain, but this passage suggests possibly so, and this might explain strongholds in cities and nations.

v. 12 reminds us that God hears us instantly. We don't have to use vain repitition for God to hear us (Matthew 6:7). At the same time, there is value in persistence in prayer.

your words. [13] The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood
me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes,
came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,
[14] and came to make you understand what is to happen to your
people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

[15] When he had spoken to me according to these words,
I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. [16] And
behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my
lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who
stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have
come upon me, and I retain no strength. [17] How can my lord's
servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me,
and no breath is left in me."

[18] Again one having the appearance of a man touched me
and strengthened me. [19] And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear
not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as
he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak,
for you have strengthened me." [20] Then he said, "Do you know
why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against
the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of
Greece will come. [21] But I will tell you what is inscribed in the
book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against
these except Michael, your prince.

The Kings of the South and the North

11 "And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede,
I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.

[2] "And now I will show you the truth. Behold, three more
kings shall arise in Persia, and a fourth shall be far richer than
all of them. And when he has become strong through his

v. 21 the "book of truth" sounds like the Apostle Paul's "word of truth" for Scripture (II Timothy 2:15). This suggests God already wrote Scripture though He revealed it to men like Daniel. Today we have the complete Revelation from God.

Chapter 11 is a prophetic look ahead for Daniel. Not just the Promised Land, but the broader Near East. Very little to do with Israel. Somewhat unique in Scripture. The Near East was the known world of that day, so it was a global vision. This tells us how God sees world events and how we should view it.

Things to keep in mind:

1. God is not giving a newspaper rendering, this is still prophetic literature. If God gave names and dates, it could be self-fulfilling prophecy. God gives broad outlines.
2. Christ has made it clear that He is the interpretive key of all history and Scripture.
3. Toward the end of this passage, there is a shift from the ancient Near East to the future for us.

riches, he shall stir up all against the kingdom of Greece. [3] Then
a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion
and do as he wills. [4] And as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom
shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven,
but not to his posterity, nor according to the authority with
which he ruled, for his kingdom shall be plucked up and go to
others besides these.

[5] "Then the king of the south shall be strong, but one of his
princes shall be stronger than he and shall rule, and his author-
ity shall be a great authority. [6] After some years they shall make
an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the south shall
come to the king of the north to make an agreement. But she
shall not retain the strength of her arm, and he and his arm
shall not endure, but she shall be given up, and her attendants,
he who fathered her, and he who supported her in those times.

[7] "And from a branch from her roots one shall arise in his
place. He shall come against the army and enter the fortress of
the king of the north, and he shall deal with them and shall
prevail. [8] He shall also carry off to Egypt their gods with their
metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold, and
for some years he shall refrain from attacking the king of the
north. [9] Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of
the south but shall return to his own land.

[10] "His sons shall wage war and assemble a multitude of
great forces, which shall keep coming and overflow and pass
through, and again shall carry the war as far as his fortress.
[11] Then the king of the south, moved with rage, shall come out
and fight against the king of the north. And he shall raise a great
multitude, but it shall be given into his hand. [12] And when the
multitude is taken away, his heart shall be exalted, and he shall

4. How we view and interpret world events is determined by our worldview. The competing worldviews of our day are Christian theism and secular humanism.

What a worldview has:
- A view of God
- A view of man
- A view of truth
- A view of ethics

) elements

The metanarrative is looking at the story behind a worldview. For Christianity, this is creation → fall → redemption → consumation

For secular humanism, the metanarrative is
Big Bang → evolution → therapy → utopia

Seven times in the first paragraph you have the word "shall." 120 times in the chapter. God is sovreign over history. God's sovreignty crushes the secular humanist worldview.

Three and then a fourth speaks of a progression. It's a rhetorical device seen in Proverbs and Amos.

cast down tens of thousands, but he shall not prevail. [13] For the king of the north shall again raise a multitude, greater than the first. And after some years he shall come on with a great army and abundant supplies.

[14] "In those times many shall rise against the king of the south, and the violent among your own people shall lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they shall fail. [15] Then the king of the north shall come and throw up siegeworks and take a well-fortified city. And the forces of the south shall not stand, or even his best troops, for there shall be no strength to stand. [16] But he who comes against him shall do as he wills, and none shall stand before him. And he shall stand in the glorious land, with destruction in his hand. [17] He shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall bring terms of an agreement and perform them. He shall give him the daughter of women to destroy the kingdom, but it shall not stand or be to his advantage. [18] Afterward he shall turn his face to the coastlands and shall capture many of them, but a commander shall put an end to his insolence. Indeed, he shall turn his insolence back upon him. [19] Then he shall turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land, but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.

[20] "Then shall arise in his place one who shall send an exactor of tribute for the glory of the kingdom. But within a few days he shall be broken, neither in anger nor in battle. [21] In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. [22] Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant. [23] And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall

Alexander the Great gets little coverage here, unlike how we would view it. God has a different perspective. Daniel 11 gives us a different way to look at history.

What God's sovreignty does:
- it ends despair over who is in authority
- it ends blaming over bad leaders
- we will look for what God is doing

The kings of the north and south view Israel as a piece of highway. The Jewish people are not the most significant players in this era, and it's not because they aren't Godly enough.

King of the south is Egypt
King of the north is Syria

Laodicea is named after Laodice I, the wife of Antiochus II

The affairs of men read like a soap opera. Either taken by force or seduced by their own desires.

The crossroads is what God is doing in redemptive history and what man is doing. We get mixed up when we get on the wrong road.

act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people. [24] Without warning he shall come into the richest parts of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time. [25] And he shall stir up his power and his heart against the king of the south with a great army. And the king of the south shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army, but he shall not stand, for plots shall be devised against him. [26] Even those who eat his food shall break him. His army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. [27] And as for the two kings, their hearts shall be bent on doing evil. They shall speak lies at the same table, but to no avail, for the end is yet to be at the time appointed. [28] And he shall return to his land with great wealth, but his heart shall be set against the holy covenant. And he shall work his will and return to his own land.

[29] "At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not be this time as it was before. [30] For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant. He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake the holy covenant. [31] Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. [32] He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. [33] And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. [34] When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And

In Daniel 11, we read about the deaths of hundreds of thousands of men. No lasting impact or accomplishment. That's the world of men.

v. 14 may be speaking of the Maccabean revolts. To no avail.

These Gentile kingdoms are marching past the most significant thing in the world in the search for something seemingly more significant

That what we possess is most significant

When Israel becomes the focal point, it is because of persecution under Antiochus IV

The people of God are persecuted, manipulated, and in some cases go astray

The people of God can serve in human militaries, but if they do, they are fighting for geopolitical entities, not the kingdom of God. We don't fight against anyone though everyone fights against us.

many shall join themselves to them with flattery, [35] and some
of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified,
and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the
appointed time. Change of focus to end of history

[36] "And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself
and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak aston-
ishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the
indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done.
[37] He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the
one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other
god, for he shall magnify himself above all. [38] He shall honor
the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers
did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with pre-
cious stones and costly gifts. [39] He shall deal with the strongest
fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowl-
edge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers
over many and shall divide the land for a price.

[40] "At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack
him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a
whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships.
broader than Antiochus And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass
through. [41] He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of
thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his
hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites.
[42] He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the
land of Egypt shall not escape. [43] He shall become ruler of the
treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of
Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his
train. [44] But news from the east and the north shall alarm him,
and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many

History will not end in utopia. It will end in conflict. Man is not improving. On the inside, we are the same as we've always been.

Daniel 11 is really about God preparing the world for Jesus so everyone could hear the Gospel. There was no other time in history so perfect for Jesus,

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who are under the law" -Galatians 4:4-5

"Many ships" and king of north and south attacking him- not Antiochus

Christians in Africa believe v. 42-43 speak of Africa's end time future, according to Oasis Publishing

Premillennial Christians tend to believe the final fulfillment of this vision happens on a smaller stage, in the future Near East. Amillennial Christians universalize the fulfillment to global conditions.

Daniel 12:1 is a major challenge for postmillenialism, the idea that the church brings in the kingdom

to destruction. [45] And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

The Time of the End

12 "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. [2] And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. [3] And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. [4] But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Since Noah's flood. The nations come after the flood (Gen. 10)

The Old Testament CLEARLY teaches there is eternal life

knowledge will increase may have dual applications: technology but also Divine revelation

[5] Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. [6] And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" [7] And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. [8] I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" [9] He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. [10] Many

Compare with Satan's little season (Rev. 20)

How could the Sadducees deny the resurrection? Because they only accepted parts of Scripture (like modern liberals)

There are two main paragraphs in chapter 12 that are almost symmetrical:
- angel
- time of tribulation
- deliverance for God's people
- sealing up vision

Things we see:
- Encouraging presence of angelic beings
- Angels frequently mentioned in connection with the general resurrection at the last day (Matthew 24, etc.)
- There is a heightening tension at the end of the age
- The angels aren't only coming for ethnic Jews at the end of the age, but all God's people
- Wisdom is viewed as the opposite of wickedness. Wisdom isn't intelligence
- Imagery and verbiage sounds like Revelation
- The discouraging reality of persecution (v. 7)
- Daniel 12 seems to support amillenialism, which holds one major final resurrection at the end of the age
- The inevitability of the general resurrection and judgment
- A clear call for evangelism (v. 3) What we're to do between now and then - Great Commission (Acts 1)

shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. 13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

- v. 4 - knowledge will increase- many early scientists such as Isaac Newton saw this as a rise in scientific and technology at the end of the age
- the Second Coming does more to encourage believers in tribulation than it does to frighten non-believers into the kingdom
- God's word is that it will get worse before it gets better but it won't last indefinitely
- the concept of 3½ is introduced in Daniel 12. Half of a complete Seven. Ammilenialists tend to view symbolicaly, but the early church fathers believed in a literal 3½ year tribulation at the end of the age

What are the days at the end of chapter 12? Possibilities:

- could be referencing Antiochus Epiphanes
- may have multiple fulfillments (AD 70 and end of age as well)
- greatest takeaway is persecution and evil rulers are always cut short

v. 13 is to Daniel but also believers throughout history. The vast majority of believers will go through the doorway of natural death